AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A liquid ejection apparatus comprising:

a cartridge holder~~, and~~;

a liquid cartridge detachably mounted on the cartridge holder and storing liquid, ~~and ejecting~~ the liquid in the liquid cartridge attached to the cartridge holder being ejected toward a target~~;~~;

a slide member and a rotating member, wherein:

said slide member is slidably supported at said cartridge holder, the slide member slides along an insertion direction of the liquid cartridge between a first position and a second position, and the insertion direction is a direction in which the liquid cartridge is inserted into the cartridge holder when the liquid cartridge is attached to the cartridge holder, and

said rotating member is rotatably supported at said cartridge holder, rotation of the rotating member is linked to sliding of said slide member, and when the slide member moves to the second position from the first position, the rotating member displaces so as not to allow removal of the liquid cartridge from the cartridge holder, and when the slide member moves to the first position from the second position, the rotating member displaces to allow removal of the liquid cartridge from the cartridge holder; and

a liquid supply needle connected to said liquid cartridge, wherein the liquid supply needle is movably inserted through said slide member, and said slide member includes liquid absorbing

means integrated with the slide member to surround the liquid supply needle and to absorb liquid leakage.

2.-8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended): A liquid ejection apparatus comprising a liquid ejection head for ejecting liquid toward a target;

a liquid cartridge for storing said liquid;

a liquid passage for connecting said liquid ejection head and said liquid cartridge; and

a cartridge holder for housing said liquid cartridge; and

a slide member and a rotating member, wherein:

said slide member is slidably supported at said cartridge holder, the slide member is slidable along an insertion direction of said liquid cartridge between a first position and a second position, and the insertion direction is a direction in which the liquid cartridge is inserted into the cartridge holder when the liquid cartridge is attached to the cartridge holder, and

said rotating member is rotatably supported at said cartridge holder, rotation of the rotating member is linked to sliding of said slide member, and when said slide member moves to the second position from the first position, the rotating member displaces so as to connect said liquid cartridge to said slide member, and when said slide member moves to the first position from the second position, the rotating member displaces to release connection of said liquid cartridge to said slide member,

wherein said liquid passage includes a liquid supply needle connected to said liquid cartridge, said liquid supply needle is movably inserted through said slide member, and said slide

member includes liquid absorbing means integrated with the slide member to surround said liquid supply needle and to absorb liquid leakage.

10. (previously presented): The liquid ejection apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising biasing means for biasing said slide member to said first position from said second position, in which movement of the slide member from the first position to the second position is performed against the biasing force of said biasing means, and wherein

said rotating member includes an engaging member which switches between a state in which the engaging member engages with said liquid cartridge and a state in which the engaging member does not engage with said liquid cartridge in accordance with rotation of the rotating member.

11. (previously presented): The liquid ejection apparatus according to claim 10, wherein

said slide member includes a guide groove,

said rotating member includes a claw member movable inside the guide groove along said guide groove, in which rotation of the rotating member is linked to movement of the claw member, and

said guide groove includes

a first groove portion in which said claw member engages when said slide member is located at said first position,

a second groove portion in which said claw member engages when said slide member is located at said second position, with movement of said slide member to said first position being restrained when said claw member engages in the second groove portion,

a third groove portion which guides said claw member from said first groove portion to said second groove portion when said slide member moves from said first position to said second position, and

a fourth groove portion which guides said claw member from said second groove portion to said first groove portion when said slide member moves from said second position to said first position.

12. (previously presented): The liquid ejection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said fourth groove portion is formed to guide said claw member from said second groove portion to said first groove portion when said slide member slides in an insertion direction of said liquid cartridge from said second position.

13. (previously presented): The liquid ejection apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the engaging member, which is included by said rotating member, engages in a groove open at one side of an upper surface of said liquid cartridge, and connects said liquid cartridge and said slide member.

14. (previously presented): The liquid ejection apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said biasing means is first biasing means, the liquid ejection apparatus further comprises second biasing means for biasing said rotating member in one direction, and said rotating

member rotates against biasing force of said second biasing means during movement of the slide member from the first position to the second position, and rotates while being biased by said second biasing means during movement of the slide member to the first position from the second position.

15. (canceled).

16. (currently amended): The liquid ejection apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said liquid cartridge includes a communication hole, said cartridge holder includes an air lead-in tube connected to said communication hole of the liquid cartridge housed in the cartridge holder, and

said slide member includes bending restraining means integrated with the slide member ~~and restrains~~to restrain bending of the air lead-in tube.

17.-21. (canceled).